

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.       A system for personalizing an electrical device, comprising:  
2           an electrical device having a plurality of button openings that are adapted to  
3       receive buttons that control operation of the electrical device; and  
4           a plurality of removable buttons that can be interchangeably disposed within  
5       the button openings of the electrical device, the buttons being provided with a variety  
6       of discrete features so as to be selectable by a user for provision on the electrical  
7       device in an arrangement chosen by the user to personalize the device as desired by  
8       the user.
- 1           2.       The system of claim 1, wherein the button features comprise a variety  
2       of colors.
- 1           3.       The system of claim 1, wherein the button features comprise a variety  
2       of icons.
- 1           4.       The system of claim 1, wherein the button features comprise a variety  
2       of textures.
- 1           5.       The system of claim 1, wherein the button features comprise a variety  
2       of shapes.

1           6.     The system of claim 1, wherein the button features comprise a variety  
2 of tactile qualities.

1           7.     The system of claim 1, wherein the button features comprise Braille  
2 indicia.

1           8.     An electrical device, comprising:  
2           a plurality of button openings adapted to receive buttons that can be used to  
3 control operation of the electrical device; and  
4           a plurality of removable buttons, the buttons being encoded so as to be  
5 configured to identify a particular functionality to the electrical device when disposed  
6 within a button opening of the device such that particular buttons can be used to  
7 initiate particular functionalities irrespective of the button opening in which it is  
8 disposed.

1           9.     The electrical device of claim 8, wherein the buttons are mechanically  
2 encoded.

1           10.    The electrical device of claim 8, wherein the buttons are electrically  
2 encoded.

1           11.    The electrical device of claim 8, wherein the buttons are provided with  
2 discrete features so as to be selectable by a user for provision on the electrical device  
3 in an arrangement chosen by the user to personalize the device as desired by the user.

1           12.     The electrical device of claim 8, wherein the functionalities pertain to  
2 emitting particular sounds when the buttons are depressed.

1           13.     An electrical device, comprising:  
2           a plurality of button openings adapted to receive buttons that can be used to  
3 control operation of the electrical device; and  
4           functionality sensing elements provided in the button openings that are  
5 adapted to determine a particular functionality that is associated with encoded,  
6 removable buttons that can be disposed within the button openings.

1           14.     The electrical device of claim 13, wherein the functionality sensing  
2 elements comprise pin openings adapted to receive pins of the removable buttons.

1           15.     A removable button adapted for interchangeable use with an electrical  
2 device, the button being encoded so as to be assigned a particular functionality such  
3 that when the button is disposed within a button opening of the electrical device, the  
4 electrical device can determine the assigned functionality and will be configured to  
5 initiate the functionality when the button is depressed.

1           16.     The electrical device of claim 15, wherein the buttons are mechanically  
2 encoded.

1           17.     The electrical device of claim 15, wherein the buttons are electrically  
2 encoded.

1           18.     A method for personalizing an electrical device having a plurality of  
2 button openings that are adapted to receive interchangeable, encoded buttons,  
3 comprising the steps of:

4           receiving selection of a particular device functionality to be associated with a  
5 particular encoded button; and

6           assigning the selected device functionality to the encoded button such that  
7 when the encoded button is disposed within a button opening of the electrical device  
8 and depressed, the selected functionality will be performed by the electrical device.

1           19.     The method of claim 18, wherein the step of receiving selection of a  
2 particular device functionality comprises receiving selection of a particular sound that  
3 is to be emitted by the electrical device when the encoded button is depressed.

1           20.     The method of claim 18, wherein the selected functionality will be  
2 performed by the electrical device when the encoded button is depressed irrespective  
3 of the particular button opening in which the button is disposed.

1           21.    A method for personalizing an electrical device, comprising the steps  
2    of:  
3           receiving a record command input by a user;  
4           detecting selection of various device buttons after receiving the record  
5    command, each device button being associated with a discrete device functionality;  
6    and  
7           assigning each of the functionalities associated with the selected buttons to a  
8    further button so that the further button is programmed to initiate performance of each  
9    of the functionalities when depressed by a user.

1           22.    The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of receiving a  
2    selection of a button to be programmed from the user and assigning the functionalities  
3    to the selected button.